

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for handling a plurality of syringe bodies, comprising:

positioning a plurality of syringe bodies, in a predetermined orientation; and,

interconnecting ~~a belt to each of~~ said plurality of syringe bodies in said predetermined orientation;-

packaging said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies in a container after said interconnecting step;

unpackaging said plurality of syringe bodies from said container after said packaging step;  
and,

locating said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies in said predetermined orientation in a plurality of holders for at least one production operation after said unpackaging step.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Canceled)

4. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 21, further comprising:  
moving said plurality of holders along a predetermined path during said at least one production operation.

5. (Canceled)

6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 4, wherein said plurality of holders are located on a support member, and wherein said moving step comprises:

rotating said support member.

7. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 4, wherein a plurality of work locations are located along said predetermined path, and wherein the method further comprises:

disposing said plurality of syringe bodies in series at said plurality of work locations to complete said at least one production operation.

8. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein for each of said plurality of syringe bodies said disposing step comprises:

first locating the syringe body at a first work location;

second locating the syringe body at a second work location; and,

returning said one the syringe body to the first work location.

9. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim ~~2~~1, wherein said at least one production operation comprises:

filling said plurality of syringe bodies with a predetermined fluid;

~~removing and replacing on caps from each of said plurality of syringe bodies; and~~

labeling said plurality of syringe bodies to indicate the contents thereof.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim ~~4~~1, further comprising:

sterilizing said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies after said packaging step and prior to said unpackaging step.

12. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein said plurality of holders are disposed to position adjacent ones of said plurality of syringe bodies in side-by-side relation.

13. (Currently Amended) A method as recited in Claim 12, further comprising:  
separating said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies after said located step.

14-20. (Cancelled)

21. (New) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein each of said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies comprises a barrel and a plunger slidably disposed in one end of the barrel.

22. (New) A method as recited in Claim 21, wherein each of said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies further comprises a cap disposed on another end of the corresponding barrel.

23. (New) A method as recited in Claim 1, further comprising:  
first completing said positioning, interconnecting and packaging steps at a production location; and,

second completing said unpackaging and locating steps at another location.

24. (New) A method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

shipping said container from said production location to said another location.

25. (New) A method as recited in Claim 23, further comprising:

sterilizing said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies at said production location.

26. (New) A method as recited in Claim 25, wherein said sterilizing step is completed after said packaging step and prior to said unpackaging step.

27. (New) A method for handling a plurality of syringe bodies, comprising:

positioning a plurality of syringe bodies in a predetermined orientation;

interconnecting said plurality of syringe bodies in said predetermined orientation;

locating said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies in said predetermined orientation into a plurality of holders; and,

labeling said plurality of syringe bodies to indicate the contents thereof with said plurality of syringe bodies located in said plurality of holders.

28. (New) A method as recited in Claim 27, further comprising:

packaging said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies in a container after said interconnecting step; and,

unpackaging said plurality of syringe bodies from said container after said packaging step.

29. (New) A method as recited in Claim 28, further comprising:

filling said plurality of syringe bodies with a predetermined fluid.

30. (New) A method as recited in Claim 28, further comprising:

sterilizing said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies after said packaging step and prior to said unpackaging step.

31. (New) A method as recited in Claim 27, further comprising:

separating said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies after said locating step.

32. (New) A method as recited in Claim 28, wherein each of said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies comprises a barrel and a plunger slidably disposed in one end of the barrel.

33. (New) A method as recited in Claim 32, wherein each of said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies further comprises a cap disposed on another end of the corresponding barrel.

34. (New) A method as recited in Claim 28, further comprising:

first completing said positioning, interconnecting and packaging steps at a production location; and,

second completing said unpackaging and locating steps at another location.

35. (New) A method as recited in Claim 34, further comprising:

shipping said container from said production location to said another location.

36. (New) A method as recited in Claim 34, further comprising:

sterilizing said plurality of interconnected syringe bodies at said production location.

37. (New) A method as recited in Claim 36, wherein said sterilizing step is completed

after said packaging step and prior to said unpackaging step.